

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 11-14, and 21-41 were pending in the application. The Applicants note with appreciation that the Office allowed Claims 32-41. However, Claims 1, 3-4, 11, 13-14, and 21-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. This Amendment cancels certain claims and adds new claims to the application.

Rejections

Claims 1, 3-4, 11, 13-14, and 21-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being deemed anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,241,955 to Dearman et al. The rejections are traversed.

Independent Claims 3 and 13 each recite “a volume adjustment device for selectively adjusting the volume of the timing gas chamber” as a claim limitation. Dearman discloses a timing gas chamber (42) having a fixed volume. While Dearman can control the amount of gas in the timing gas chamber (42) by controlling the gas pressure with an adjustable piston (50), Dearman never changes the width, height, or depth (i.e. volume) of the timing gas chamber (42).

The Applicants claim a feature for changing the volume of the timing gas chamber. As shown in FIG. 4 and described in the Specification, the timing gas chamber has a moveable wall (54) that is positionable by a user to change the dimensions of the timing gas chamber. Thus, by adjusting the width, height, or depth of the timing gas chamber, the Applicants allow the volume of the timing gas chamber to be adjusted, as claimed.

Dearman does not disclose or suggest “a volume adjustment device for selectively adjusting the volume of the timing gas chamber” as specified in Claims 3-4, 23-25, 13-14, and 29-31. Reconsideration of the rejections under Section 102 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New Claims 42-53 have been added to the application. New dependent Claims Claim 42 and 43 depend from allowed Claims 32 and 37. New independent Claims 44 and 49 correspond to allowed dependent claims 33 and 38, respectively. As the new claims recite allowed limitations, the new claims are in condition for allowance.

Entry and allowance of new Claims 42-53 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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